

5           **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1.       A computer-implemented method for determining and applying one or more format attributes to content in an electronic document, comprising the steps of:
  - 10           determining a first set of format attributes associated with a first region of content for the electronic document, wherein the first region of content comprises a source for a portion of content;
  - determining a second set of format attributes associated with a second region of content for the electronic document, wherein the second region of content comprises a destination for the portion of content;
  - 15           comparing the first set of format attributes with the second set of format attributes; and
  - applying to the portion of content those format attributes of the second set of format attributes that differ from the first set of format attributes in response to placing the portion of content at the location.
  - 20
2.       The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
  - determining if any of the portion of content contains direct formatting attributes, based on the first set of format attributes; and
  - applying the direct formatting attributes to the portion of content based on
  - 25           the second set of format attributes.
3.       The method of claim 2 wherein the step of applying the direct formatting attributes further comprises the step of determining a format attribute to apply to the portion of content containing direct formatting attributes, wherein the determined format
- 30           attribute provides emphasis for the portion of content containing direct formatting attributes.

5           4.       The method of claim 1 wherein the first region of content comprises a first  
plurality of paragraphs within a first number of lines from the portion of content to be cut  
and the second region of content comprises a second plurality of paragraphs within a  
second number of lines from the location into which the portion of content to be cut is to  
be pasted.

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5.       The method of claim 1 wherein the first region of content comprises a first  
paragraph and the second region of content comprises a second paragraph.

15           6.       The method of claim 1 wherein the first region of content comprises a first  
plurality of paragraphs within a first number of lines from the portion of content to be  
copied and the second region of content comprises a second plurality of paragraphs  
within a second number of lines from the location into which the portion of content to be  
copied is to be pasted.

20           7.       The method of claim 1 wherein the first region of content comprises a first  
plurality of content associated with a first level in one or more outline objects comprising  
the portion of content to be copied and the second region of content comprises a second  
plurality of content associated with a second level in one or more outline objects  
comprising the location into which the portion of content to be copied is to be pasted.

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8.       The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
          recording the first set of format attributes, in response to determining the  
first set of format attributes; and  
          recording the second set of format attributes, in response to determining  
30 the second set of format attributes.

5           9.     A system for determining and applying one or more format attributes to  
content in an electronic document, comprising:

          a copy module, logically coupled to a format module, operable to place a  
portion of content at a destination for the portion of content in the electronic document;  
and

10           a format module, operable to determine a first set of format attributes  
associated with a first region of content for the electronic document, wherein the first  
region of content comprises a source for the portion of content, further operable to  
determine a second set of format attributes associated with a second region of content for  
the electronic document, wherein the second region of content comprises the destination  
15 for the portion of content, further operable to compare the first set of format attributes  
with the second set of format attributes and further operable to apply to the portion of  
content those format attributes of the second set of format attributes that differ from the  
first set of format attributes in response to the copy module placing the portion of content  
at the destination.

20           10.    The system of claim 9, wherein the format module is further operable to  
determine if any of the portion of content contains direct formatting attributes, based on  
the first set of format attributes, and further operable to apply the direct formatting  
attributes to the portion of content based on the second set of format attributes.

25           11.    The system of claim 10 wherein the format module is further operable to  
determine a format attribute to apply to the portion of content containing direct  
formatting attributes, wherein the format attribute provides emphasis for the portion of  
content containing direct formatting attributes.

5           12.     The system of claim 9 wherein the first region of content comprises a first  
plurality of paragraphs within a first number of lines from the portion of content to be cut  
and the second region of content comprises a second plurality of paragraphs within a  
second number of lines from the location into which the portion of content to be cut is to  
be pasted.

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          13.     The system of claim 9 wherein the first region of content comprises a first  
paragraph and the second region of content comprises a second paragraph.

          14.     The system of claim 9 wherein the first region of content comprises a first  
15 plurality of paragraphs within a first number of lines from the portion of content to be  
copied and the second region of content comprises a second plurality of paragraphs  
within a second number of lines from the location into which the portion of content to be  
copied is to be pasted.

20           15.     The system of claim 9 wherein the first region of content comprises a first  
plurality of content associated with a first level in one or more outline objects comprising  
the portion of content to be copied and the second region of content comprises a second  
plurality of content associated with a second level in one or more outline objects  
comprising the location into which the portion of content to be copied is to be pasted.

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          16.     The system of claim 9 wherein the format module is further operable to  
record the first set of format attributes, in response to determining the first set of format  
attributes; and record the second set of format attributes, in response to determining the  
second set of format attributes.

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5           17.     A computer-implemented method for determining one or more format attributes for content of an electronic document, comprising the steps of:

                  determining each of the format attributes associated with a region of content of the electronic document, wherein the region of content comprises a portion of content to be placed in another location of the electronic document;

10               determining if any of the portion of content to be copied contains direct formatting attributes; and

                  recording the format attributes and the direct formatting attributes associated with the portion of content.

15           18.     The method of claim 17 wherein the region of content comprises a plurality of paragraphs within a number of lines from the portion of content to be copied and pasted in another location of the electronic document.

20           19.     The method of claim 17 wherein the region of content comprises a plurality of paragraphs within a number of lines from the portion of content to be cut and pasted in another location of the electronic document.

25           20.     The method of claim 17 wherein the region of content comprises a paragraph comprising the portion of content.

                  21.     The method of claim 17 wherein the region of content comprises a plurality of paragraphs within a number of lines from the portion of content.

30           22.     The method of claim 17 wherein the region of content comprises a plurality of content associated with a level in one or more outline objects comprising the portion of content.

5           23.     A computer-implemented method for applying direct format attributes to content of an electronic document, comprising the steps of:

                  determining a first set of format attributes associated with a first region of content of the electronic document, wherein the first region of content comprises a portion of content to be copied;

10           determining a second set of format attributes associated with a second region of content of the electronic document, wherein the second region of content comprises a location into which the portion of content is to be pasted;

                  determining if any of the portion of content contains direct formatting attributes;

15           applying the direct formatting attributes to the portion of content based on the first set of format attributes and the second set of format attributes in response to pasting the portion of content at the location.

20           24.     The method of claim 23 wherein the step of applying the determined direct formatting attributes further comprises the step of determining a format attribute to apply to the portion of content containing direct formatting attributes, wherein the determined format attribute provides emphasis for the portion of content containing direct formatting attributes.

25           25.     The method of claim 23 wherein the first region of content comprises a portion of content to be cut from the first region of content instead of copied from the first region of content.

30           26.     The method of claim 23 wherein the first region of content comprises a first paragraph and the second region of content comprises a second paragraph.

5           27.     The method of claim 23 wherein the first region of content comprises a first plurality of paragraphs within a first number of lines from the portion of content to be copied and the second region of content comprises a second plurality of paragraphs within a second number of lines from the location into which the portion of content to be copied is to be pasted.

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          28.     The method of claim 23 wherein the first region of content comprises a first plurality of content associated with a first level in one or more outline objects comprising the portion of content to be copied and the second region of content comprises a second plurality of content associated with a second level in one or more  
15 outline objects comprising the location into which the portion of content to be copied is to be pasted.

          29.     The method of claim 23 further comprising the steps of:  
                  recording the first set of format attributes, in response to determining the  
20 first set of format attributes; and  
                  recording the second set of format attributes, in response to determining the second set of format attributes.

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5           30.     A computer-implemented method for determining and applying one or  
more format attributes to content in a first electronic document, comprising the steps of:  
                  determining a first set of format attributes associated with a first region of  
content for the first electronic document, wherein the first region of content comprises a  
source for a portion of content;  
10           determining a second set of format attributes associated with a second  
region of content for a second electronic document, wherein the second region of content  
comprises a destination for the portion of content;  
                  comparing the first set of format attributes with the second set of format  
attributes; and  
15           applying to the portion of content those format attributes of the second set  
of format attributes that differ from the first set of format attributes in response to placing  
the portion of content at the location of the second electronic document.

              31.     The method of claim 30 further comprising the steps of:  
20           determining if any of the portion of content contains direct formatting  
attributes, based on the first set of format attributes; and  
                  applying the direct formatting attributes to the portion of content based on  
the second set of format attributes.

25           32.     The method of claim 31 wherein the step of applying the direct formatting  
attributes further comprises the step of determining a format attribute to apply to the  
portion of content containing direct formatting attributes, wherein the determined format  
attribute provides emphasis for the portion of content containing direct formatting  
attributes.

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5           33.     The method of claim 31 wherein the first region of content comprises a first plurality of paragraphs within a first number of lines from the portion of content to be cut in the first electronic document and the second region of content comprises a second plurality of paragraphs within a second number of lines from the location into which the portion of content to be cut is to be pasted in the second electronic document.

10           34.     The method of claim 30 wherein the first region of content comprises a first paragraph and the second region of content comprises a second paragraph.

15           35.     The method of claim 30 wherein the first region of content comprises a first plurality of paragraphs within a first number of lines from the portion of content to be copied in the first electronic document and the second region of content comprises a second plurality of paragraphs within a second number of lines from the location into which the portion of content to be copied is to be pasted in the second electronic document.

20           36.     The method of claim 30 wherein the first region of content comprises a first plurality of content associated with a first level in one or more outline objects comprising the portion of content to be copied and the second region of content comprises a second plurality of content associated with a second level in one or more  
25 outline objects comprising the location into which the portion of content to be copied is to be pasted.

          37.     The method of claim 30 further comprising the steps of:  
                  recording the first set of format attributes, in response to determining the  
30 first set of format attributes; and  
                  recording the second set of format attributes, in response to determining the second set of format attributes.

5           38.     A computer-readable storage device storing a set of computer-executable instructions implementing a method for applying one or more format attributes to content in an electronic document, comprising the steps of:

                  determining a first set of format attributes associated with a first region of content, wherein the first region of content comprises a portion of content to be placed in  
10   another location;

                  determining a second set of format attributes associated with a second region of content, wherein the second region of content comprises the other location;

                  comparing the first set of format attributes with the second set of format attributes; and

15           applying to the portion of content those format attributes of the second set of format attributes that differ from the first set of format attributes in response to placing the portion of content in the other location.

                  39.     The computer-readable storage device of claim 38 further comprising the  
20   steps of:

                  determining if any of the portion of content contains direct formatting attributes;

                  recording the direct formatting attributes; and

                  applying the direct formatting attributes to the portion of content.  
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                  40.     The computer-readable storage device of claim 39 wherein the step of applying the direct formatting attributes further comprises the step of determining a format attribute to apply to the portion of content containing direct formatting attributes, wherein the determined format attribute provides emphasis for the portion of content  
30   containing direct formatting attributes.

5           41.     The computer-readable storage device of claim 38 wherein the first region  
of content comprises a first plurality of paragraphs within a first number of lines from the  
portion of content to be cut and the second region of content comprises a second plurality  
of paragraphs within a second number of lines from the location into which the portion of  
content to be cut is to be pasted.

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          42.     The computer-readable storage device of claim 38 wherein the first region  
of content comprises a first paragraph and the second region of content comprises a  
second paragraph.

15           43.     The computer-readable storage device of claim 38 wherein the first region  
of content comprises a first plurality of paragraphs within a first number of lines from the  
portion of content to be copied and the second region of content comprises a second  
plurality of paragraphs within a second number of lines from the location into which the  
portion of content to be copied is to be pasted.

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          44.     The computer-readable storage device of claim 38 wherein the first region  
of content comprises a first plurality of content associated with a first level in one or  
more outline objects comprising the portion of content to be copied and the second region  
of content comprises a second plurality of content associated with a second level in one  
25 or more outline objects comprising the location into which the portion of content to be  
copied is to be pasted.

          45.     The computer-readable storage device of claim 38 further comprising the  
steps of:

30                 recording the first set of format attributes, in response to determining the  
first set of format attributes; and

                  recording the second set of format attributes, in response to determining  
the second set of format attributes.